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marked with the letter 'B' to indicate a boundary. This mark had been made, according to custom, with a red-hot iron, which had penetrated the tree to some depth. When the tree was chopped up the mark was still very prominent on the surface of the bark. A blow of the axe given by the woodman parallel with the axis of the trunk, in the external region of the 'sap-wood,' revealed two absolutely plain surfaces, neither of which bore a trace of the letter; but, a second cut, made a little further toward the centre, brought to light a mark 'B' identical with the one presented by the surface of the bark itself." We omit the engraving furnished by Mr. Olivier to illustrate this case, and substitute therefor a cut showing (one-fifth the natural size), an analogous example which was exhibited by Mr. J. D. Hyatt at the September meeting of the Torrey Club. Mr. Hyatt stated that the specimen shown was obtained by Mr. E. C. Morrison in the northern part of Michigan, while making a survey last winter for a railway whose route lay through a section of country entirely covered with forest. During the progress of his work Mr.



Morrison frequently found it necessary to verify certain points of the survey by hunting up the trees showing the nearly obliterated scars made by the Government surveyors many years ago in dividing the country up into townships or "sections." Upon removing the wood-growth which covered the "blaze" made by these surveyors, he found the record in most cases perfectly preserved, while the figures and letters, from being filled in by young wood-cells, were exactly copied in relief (as shown in the cut) upon the inner surface of the succeeding annual layer. The specimen figured, which

was taken from a hemlock, does not exhibit a complete record, inasmuch as the entire surface of the "blaze" has not been covered by new wood; but Mr. Morrison obtained other examples in which the record was perfect, the date revealed being 1842, and the layers of growth corresponding exactly with the number of years which has since elapsed.

Floral Proliferation in *Gratiola*.—Mr. E. S. Wheeler has sent us from Berlin, Mass., a number of specimens of *Gratiola aurea*, which have regular flowers, with from two to three corollas enclosed one within the other after the manner of those of the "hose in hose" variety of the primrose (*Primula acaulis*). In some cases the innermost corolla is tubular like the outer ones, but in others it is polypetalous. A vertical section of the flowers shows that the multiplication of the parts is due to median proliferation. Dr. Masters (Vegetable Teratology) gives Scrophulariaceae as one of the orders in which this sort of change is apt to occur.

Mr. Wheeler remarks that in the locality where these specimens were found no flowers were observed last year, and but few this, the plants having been kept cropped by cattle.